

In the Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice or disclaimer, Claim 20 and Claims 28-30.

1-18 (withdrawn)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of alleviating a ~~bone~~ cartilage disorder in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal[[,]] an effective amount of a PRO4425 polypeptide ~~or an agonist thereof~~.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 19, wherein said agonist~~ A method of alleviating a cartilage disorder in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of an anti-PRO4425 polypeptide antibody.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~22~~ 21 wherein said ~~agonist~~ antibody is an antibody fragment.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 22 wherein ~~the~~ said antibody fragment is a Fab fragment

24-26. (withdrawn)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein said ~~bone~~ cartilage disorder is ~~selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, osteomyelitis, osteogenesis imperfecta and rheumatoid arthritis.~~

28.-30 (Canceled)

31. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein the PRO4425 polypeptide has 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2).

32. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein said PRO4425 polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the reverse complement of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).